



California State Fire Marshal Informational Bulletin

SAFETY NOTICE FOR HOLD-OPEN LATCHES ON RETAIL GASOLINE NOZZLES

The State Fire Marshal's Office has been notified of cases where nozzle hold-open latch release-springs on retail gasoline dispensers have failed. The failures occurred during operation or after an automatic shut-off. This can result in product flow when the dispenser is activated or the inability to stop delivery by compressing (lifting) the nozzle lever. The reported incidents involve nozzles with latches placed within the lever loop and not to those latches that catch onto the end of the lever furthest away from the spout.

Local officials (especially those responsible for Weights and Measures) are reminded to locate emergency shut-off valves prior to initiating inspections at service stations and, when testing or operating dispensers, to check the position and condition of the lever and hold-open latch prior to authorizing a dispenser. When malfunctioning shut-off hardware is encountered, the nozzle should be red-tagged and locked out of service.

The State Fire Marshal is taking a proactive role in California to ensure that these devices are replaced with other approved nozzles. We strongly recommend the replacement of all effected nozzles as soon as they are identified.

Any questions or comments regarding this issue should be directed to Ken Lake, Program Supervisor at the Department of Food and Agriculture, Division of Measurement Standards, by telephoning (916) 229-3047 or by email at klake@cdfa.ca.gov.